

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) In combination:

a support having an upwardly facing surface;

a transition strip on the support, the transition strip comprising a single piece defining:

a) a horizontal wall having a flat upwardly facing surface residing substantially in a first reference plane;

b) an upright wall projecting upwardly substantially orthogonally away from the horizontal wall and the upwardly facing surface and having first and second oppositely facing surfaces; and

c) a cap on the upright wall and having first and second free ends,
the cap, horizontal wall and first surface on the upright wall cooperatively defining a U-shaped first receptacle opening in one horizontal direction,

the cap, second surface on the upright wall and upwardly facing surface on the support cooperatively defining a U-shaped second receptacle opening oppositely to the one horizontal direction;

a first layer placed against the upwardly facing support surface and having a first edge portion that nests in the U-shaped first receptacle,

the horizontal wall configured so that the first layer can be directed up to and nested in the U-shaped first receptacle against the horizontal wall by movement relative to the transition strip parallel to the first reference plane without deforming the cap; and

a second layer placed against the upwardly facing surface and having a second edge portion that nests in the U-shaped second receptacle,

wherein the upright wall, cap, and at least a part of the horizontal wall are substantially rigid and rigidly interconnected so that the upright wall and cap have a substantially fixed relative orientation relative to each other and the at least part of the horizontal wall so that the cap maintains a substantially fixed orientation relative to the upwardly facing support surface.

2. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first layer comprises a rigid material.

3. (original) The combination according to claim 2 wherein the rigid material comprises at least one of plastic, wood, metal, stone, and a composite.

4. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first layer comprises a flexible material.

5. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the second layer comprises a rigid material.

6. (original) The combination according to claim 5 wherein the rigid material comprises at least one of plastic, wood, metal, stone, and a composite.

7. (previously presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the second layer comprises a flexible material.

8. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the single piece comprises metal.

9. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the single piece comprises a non-metal material.

10. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cap has a first portion that projects a first distance from the upright wall in the one horizontal direction and a second portion that projects a second distance from the upright wall oppositely to the one horizontal direction, and the first and second distances are different.

11. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the horizontal wall has oppositely facing flat surfaces respectively within first and second reference planes and the horizontal wall is weakened so that the horizontal wall is reconfigurable within a space between the first and second reference planes.

12. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein there are tack prongs on the horizontal wall.

13. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the transition strip is formed by an extrusion process.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap each have a thickness and the thicknesses of the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap are substantially the same.

16. (original) The combination according to claim 15 wherein the thicknesses of the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap are on the order of 0.055 inches.

17. (original) The combination according to claim 15 wherein the thicknesses of the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap are in the range of .03-.08 inches.

18. (previously presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cap has a first downwardly facing surface and the first downwardly facing surface and first surface on the upright wall meet at a line.

19. (Previously presented) The combination according to claim 18 wherein the cap has a second downwardly facing surface and the second downwardly facing surface and second surface on the upright wall meet at a radiused surface portion.

20. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cap has a downwardly facing surface and at least a part of the downwardly facing surface at the first receptacle is spaced from the support a first distance and at least a part of the downwardly facing surface at the second receptacle is spaced from the support a second distance that is different than the first distance.

21. (original) The combination according to claim 20 wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance.

22. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cap has a portion that is disposed at an angle to horizontal and the angle is less than 25°.

23. (original) The combination according to claim 22 wherein the angle is in the range of 10-15°.

24. (currently amended) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the cap has a free end that is rounded so that there are no sharp corners or edges at the free end.

25. (currently amended) The combination according to claim 22 wherein the portion of the cap terminates at a free end that is rounded so that there are no sharp corners or edges on the portion of the cap.

26. (previously presented) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the transition strip resides between first and second spaced, horizontal reference planes and the transition strip is reconfigurable in a space between the first and second planes.

27. (Currently Amended) In combination:

- a support having an upwardly facing surface,
- a transition strip on the support, the transition strip comprising a single piece defining:
 - a) a horizontal wall;
 - b) an upright wall projecting angularly and upwardly away from the horizontal wall and having first and second oppositely facing surfaces; and
 - c) a cap on the upright wall and having first and second free ends,

the cap, horizontal wall and first surface on the upright wall cooperatively defining a U-shaped first receptacle opening in one horizontal direction,

the cap, second surface on the upright wall and upwardly facing surface on the support cooperatively defining a U-shaped second receptacle opening oppositely to the one horizontal direction;

- a first layer placed against the upwardly facing support surface and having a first edge portion that nests in the U-shaped first receptacle; and
- a second layer placed against the upwardly facing surface and having a second edge portion that nests in the U-shaped second receptacle,

wherein the first layer comprises a flexible material and the second layer comprises a rigid material,

wherein the cap has a first downwardly facing surface and the first downwardly facing surface and first surface on the upright wall meet at a line,

wherein the cap has a second downwardly facing surface and the second downwardly facing surface and second surface on the upright wall meet at a radiused surfaced portion,

wherein the cap has a first portion that projects a first distance from the upright wall in one horizontal direction to the first free end and ~~[[bends]]~~ bounds the first receptacle and a second portion that projects a second distance from the upright wall oppositely to the one horizontal direction, and bounds the second receptacle,

wherein the first distance is substantially greater than the second distance.

28. (original) The combination according to claim 27 wherein the flexible material comprises carpet.

29. (Currently Amended) A transition strip for accommodating adjacent edge portions of layers on a horizontal support surface upon which the transition strip is operatively placed, the transition strip comprising:

a horizontal wall;

an upright wall projecting angularly and upwardly away from the horizontal wall and having first and second oppositely facing surfaces; and

a cap on the upright wall,

the cap, horizontal wall, and first surface on the upright wall cooperatively defining a U-shaped first receptacle opening in one horizontal direction to receive an edge portion of one layer on a support surface upon which the transition strip is operatively placed,

the cap, second surface on the upright wall and an upwardly facing surface on a horizontal support upon which the transition strip is operatively placed cooperatively defining a U-shaped second receptacle opening oppositely to the one horizontal direction to receive an edge portion of another layer on a support surface upon which the transition strip is operatively placed,

wherein the upright wall and cap are substantially rigid and rigidly interconnected so that the upright wall and cap have a substantially fixed relative orientation,

wherein the horizontal wall has a thickness between oppositely facing flat surfaces respectively within first and second reference planes spaced from each other by the thickness of the horizontal wall and the horizontal wall is weakened so that the horizontal wall is reconfigurable within a space between the first and second reference planes.

30. (original) The transition strip according to claim 29 wherein the transition strip is defined as a single piece.

31. (original) The transition strip according to claim 30 wherein the single piece comprises metal.

32. (original) The transition strip according to claim 30 wherein the single piece comprises a non-metal material.

33. (Previously presented) The transition strip according to claim 29 wherein the cap projects a first distance from the upright walls in the one horizontal direction and a second distance from the upright wall oppositely to the one horizontal direction and the first and second distances are substantially different.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (original) The transition strip according to claim 29 wherein there are tack prongs on the horizontal wall.

36. (original) The transition strip according to claim 29 wherein the transition strip is formed by an extrusion process.

37. (original) The transition strip according to claim 29 wherein the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap are substantially rigid and rigidly interconnected so that the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap have a substantially fixed relative orientation.

38. (previously presented) The transition strip according to claim 37 wherein the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap each have a thickness and the thicknesses of the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap are substantially the same.

39. (original) The transition strip according to claim 29 wherein the thicknesses of the horizontal wall, upright wall, and cap are on the order of .03-.08 inches.

40. (previously presented) The transition strip according to claim 19 wherein the first downwardly facing surface has a first length extending from the upright wall to the first free end, the second downwardly facing surface has a second length extending from the upright wall to the second free end, and the second length is substantially greater than the first length.

41. (previously presented) The transition strip according to claim 40 wherein the majority of the second length of the second surface is flat and displaced at an angle horizontal and the second layer is flexible.

42. (previously presented) The transition strip according to claim 40 wherein the entire first length of the first surface is substantially flat and angled with respect to the second flat surface and the first layer is rigid.

43. (previously presented) The transition strip according to claim 42 wherein the entire first length of the first surface is substantially horizontally oriented.

44. (new) The transition strip according to claim 1 wherein the horizontal wall extends away from the upright wall to a free end, the upwardly facing surface is substantially flat from the upright wall fully to the free end of the horizontal wall.